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**FORMER I.N.S. INSPECTOR PLEADS GUILTY TO FEDERAL CHARGES  
IN CONNECTION WITH INTERNATIONAL DRUG SMUGGLING SCHEME  
BASED IN JUAREZ, MEXICO**

**(EL PASO, TEXAS)** A former Immigration and Naturalization Service Inspector in El Paso faces between ten years and life in Federal prison after pleading guilty this afternoon to charges of conspiracy to import marijuana and money laundering.

Appearing before United States District Judge David Briones, 40-year-old **RAYMOND MONROE ALLEN, II**, of El Paso, admitted that while on duty, he used cellular telephones, pagers, and two-way radios to coordinate drug shipments through international bridge lanes at the Bridge of Americas Port of Entry.

Authorities estimate that over a 2½ period beginning in 1999, Allen and his co-conspirators were responsible for importing approximately 164,000 pounds of marijuana into the United States from Mexico. Authorities allege Allen was paid between \$5,000 and \$10,000 for every load of marijuana that was smuggled into the U.S. through his inspection lane.

In addition, Allen's co-defendants, 25-year-old **ALFREDO SILVA-OLIVAS** and 33-year-old **ARTURO LAREDO-MOLINAR**, both of Juarez, pled guilty today. Silva-Olivas pled to one count of conspiracy to import marijuana, four counts of importation of marijuana, and one count of bribery; Laredo-Molinar pled guilty to one count of importation of marijuana. As a result, Silva-Olivas faces between ten years and life in Federal prison; Laredo-Molinar, between five and 40 years in Federal prison. Sentencings for Allen, Laredo-Molinar and Silva-Olivas are scheduled for June 6, 2002.

Last December, authorities arrested Allen; his wife, 36-year-old **MARIA LUISA OLIVAS ALLEN**; and, Silva-Olivas. In March, Maria Allen pled guilty one count of money laundering. She faces up to 20 years in Federal prison and is scheduled to be sentenced on May 17, 2002.

As per their plea agreements, the Allens have agreed not to contest the forfeiture of their residence at 1377 Silver Gate Place valued at \$279,000 and have also agreed to a \$3 Million monetary judgement.

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The remaining defendants—38-year-old **MARTIN MARTINEZ-RUEDA** of Juarez and **JESUS ACOSTA** (d.o.b. unknown) of Juarez—remain at large. Martinez-Rueda faces one count of conspiracy to import marijuana and four counts of importation of marijuana. Jesus Acosta faces one count of conspiracy to import marijuana, four counts of importation of marijuana, and one count of money laundering.

In March 2001, a multi-agency task force was formed to investigate this narcotics trafficking organization. Task force members include the U.S. Customs Service, U.S. Customs Service – Internal Affairs, Drug Enforcement Administration, Department of Justice Office of Inspector General, Internal Revenue Service – Criminal Investigation, Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the El Paso County Sheriff's Department. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Juanita Fielden.

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